



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 5, 2004

Martha A. Ahern
(signature)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
DOUGLAS E. OTT, et al.)	Group Art Unit 3763
)	
Serial No. 09/363,234)	Examiner: M.M. Thompson
)	
Filed: July 27, 1999)	
)	Attorney Docket 1-15369
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)	
FOR TREATING GAS FOR)	Paper No. 17
DELIVERY TO AN ANIMAL)	

April 5, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
APR 12 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Honorable Sir:

Pursuant to a telephone interview with the Examiner in Charge of the present application, Mr. Michael Thompson, and Supervisory Patent Examiner, Mr. Brian L. Casler, on Thursday, April 1, 2004, Applicant hereby presents this preliminary amendment in conjunction with a concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The filing of both the RCE and the Preliminary Amendment are timely since the sixth month due date for response of April 3, 2004 falls on a Saturday. A request for a three-month extension in the due date for response is filed concurrently herewith.

The Examiner is courteously requested to enter the amendment of January 5, 2004, together with the concurrently submitted information disclosure, in the order that

they were received. The claim amendments to follow are made as if those documents have already been entered.